

**Title:** Interview with Vanessa Ward

**Date:** April 14, 2025

**Location:** Shiloh United Methodist Church in Crisfield

**Interviewer(s):** John Golladay and Mia Butta

**Interviewee:** Vanessa Ward

**Introduction:** Vanessa Ward talks about living in Crisfield for the past 31 years, living through Sandy, and working with FEMA to get funding to repair her church. She talks about how the town has changed over the years, how the flooding's gotten worse, and how religion is a massive part of the community.

[Transcription begins]

**John Golladay (Golladay):** Alright, we're here on the 14th of April, 2025, at the Shiloh United Methodist Church here in Crisfield. I'm John Golladay, here with...

**Mia Butta (Butta):** Mia Butta.

**Golladay:** And here we're interviewing Miss...

**Vanessa Ward (Ward):** Vanessa Ward.

**Golladay:** Alright. So just, first things first, how long have you lived here in the Crisfield area?

**Ward:** 31 years

**Golladay:** What made you decide to move here?

**Ward:** My daughter, I married someone from here, and at the time, we separated. And my daughter didn't like my rules so she came a summer to stay with the grandmother but she ended up staying so I decided to move down here because she's playing ball at school- at school, so I decided I'm only gonna stay until a couple years till she graduated, but I end up being here 31 years.

**Butta:** So she was in high school when you moved down here, so what was it like raising her up until high school, I would say, when she kind of moved on?

**Ward:** Salisbury, well, first of all, we started off on the Western Shore in Arundel County. And I didn't want to, she started school, and I didn't want to raise my child there. I just didn't want to raise her in the high-density area. And plus where we was, she went to a Fort Meade school where there's a lot of military kids, so I took the leap and we came back to Salisbury area. You can take people out of the country, but you can't take the country out of people.

**Butta:** And what did you see in Crisfield?

**Ward:** I like it. It's quiet. Although you hear, you know, some negative, but that's only few in between. But I just like the little quiet town. You don't have to hustle bustle, I lived in cities. I just like the quietness. I like just being here.

**Butta:** Do you think it's changed since you moved here?

**Ward:** Let me see. It really hasn't much changed, really. It has not, in my in my opinion. It hasn't did any changes. Not that many. They might be a little that you don't really notice.

**Golladay:** What do you like to do around here just during your free time?

**Ward:** I'm a home person, I'm a to myself and I have a little great grandbaby that will be two next month and I keep her, but far as going doing something here, I spend my time here in Shiloh, our home. Anybody tell you but that's always here. So.

**Butta:** And what does the role of religion play for you here?

**Ward:** United Methodist.

**Golladay:** Like, how does it shape your life?

**Ward:** How does it shape my life? I have, I rededicated my life about 17 years ago. And I feel faith has carried me a long time. I just went through a storm and since December, but he's brought me out of it. So I rely on faith.

**Butta:** So when did you start coming to this church?

**Ward:** 31 years ago when I came, first stepped my foot in this town. [door closing interruption]

**Butta:** So you mentioned that family is a big part of your life as well. What is it, what is the role of family for you specifically here in Crisfield?

**Ward:** My role is in my family. I have one daughter and she has three kids and they all eight years apart. One's married, was married, but she's now, her husband was killed. She's young, she's only 28. And she was five months pregnant with the little girl that I keep, Skyla, that I keep now. She was five months pregnant when her husband got killed. And then I have a

granddaughter that's at Stevenson University. This is her second year. She'll be going to a junior in September. And then, I have one in the sixth grade. And then I have a great-grandson that's in the second grade. That's my life. That's my center, right there.

**Butta:** So can you speak a little bit more about helping raise them here in Crisfield?

**Ward:** Well, my daughter, okay, the two girls, my two granddaughters, they graduated out of my house because my daughter worked a lot of hours. So they graduated, so they always say, I'm their mom, and they're, you know, mom is their sister, you know, but they still call her mom, you know. But, raising kids here is better than what I want from Salisbury. I don't want to step on anybody's toes for this little quaint tale, you know, little things happen and then we have a killing or something like that, but it's- it's- it's really not the hood.

**Golladay:** And, well, we're here in your actual office at the at the Methodist Church, so like what do you- what do you do for the church here?

**Ward:** Okay, I'm the church secretary. I am tier person of finance. I can do everything. I do. I'm- I'm their delegate to the- to the conference, you know. I go to the annual conference and represent the high church here. I wear a lot of hats. Whatever committee that needs help, I'm there. I am on a care committee. Whatever committees that needs help, trustees, whatever I'm there, but my and they know and I'm a lay- lay servant- a lay servant. We deliver sermons when the pastor's not in his absence or something. So I wear- I wear a lot of hats, and everybody calls me. Out there they got chairmen of other boards and stuff. They call, the church secretary knows everything. You know, you know when you're secretary, you knows everything, right? Everything in the office, you what's going on.

**Butta:** So beyond your work that you do here, what do you attend, like any community events or how do you entertain yourself?

**Ward:** I am a Eastern Star member. No, an Eastern Star. Eastern Star is part of the Masons, you know the Masons? Are you familiar with the Masons? Okay, they are pretty way up there distinguished group, you know, and I am a member of the Pride Lodge 190 down here, Crisfield Lodge. I am the daughter in their temple and I used to be when I used to be daughter ruler of the temple. I think I did that for three years and stepped down. I'm on the children's board of foster care. I can't think of, I can tell you what the number is. Hold on. I'm 70, come on, y'all. Come on, ya'll, I'm seventy. I gotta- I gotta go back to notes and stuff.

**Golladay:** No problem, no problem.

**Ward:** Hold on, let me get you the right name for that. [pauses] I'm on the Maryland Citizen Review Board for Children. And I've been on there for five years. We review, you know, like

kids are in foster care, and we advocate for those kids to make sure social service and all the wrap-around programs are doing everything they can for these children.

**Butta:** So that's how you- you weave in your master's program?

**Ward:** I did it. Yeah. Yes, I did. Yes, I did.

**Golladay:** So how is the- how's the community around- around here and around the church?

**Ward:** It's quiet. You see, you don't see anybody, how do you walk it? You got a restaurant next door, you know, that's business, you know, but pretty much it's quiet. Pastor lives next door. That's the house that the church owns that the pastor lives in. And where you was at, that our property too across the street. So, it's pretty quiet. People down this way own their homes.

**Butta:** Moving more into questions about the environment here, what role does the waterfront or the Chesapeake Bay play in recreation, social life for the community and yourself as well?

**Ward:** None. Have you heard that before? I can't believe. What does it play? It doesn't play anything for me. I'm not a boater. I don't crab. I don't fish. I don't go swimming so it doesn't- it doesn't play in that, doesn't, but I would love to see a water- a water park or something on, you know, out there somewhere just on a- as far as environment the water- the water, I'm not a water person, so it doesn't bother me. Of the water.

**Golladay:** Have you had a lot of problems with flooding events around here?

**Ward:** Yes, yes, okay, I'm going to tell you the biggest one that ever was come. That was 2012 when Sandy came through. Well, we didn't think that it was going to hit us that way. I stayed home, I stayed home. And it kept rising, and my neighbors, I seen them, they came they came out their apartments and the water was up to this to them, and they was going to get in the National Guard's truck. I said, "Man, you know, my steps come up. You know, my steps come up." I said, "That water's not going to come up here," and then it kept, then it keep rising. I said "Oh my land, I got to get out of here. I gotta get out here." So- so then, as I was packing up some stuff, putting it in the bag, a knock came on the door, and it was a National Guard saying, you know, it's best to evacuate. He was in a rubber boat. That's just how it was. He was in a rubber boat, and I said, "Let me grab my bag, let my grab my bag!" I'm like, "Oh my God," and I'm petrified of water, so that's why I don't, that why I said the water don't play a part with me. He said, "I not going to let you drop in the water, I am not going to let you," and we get on this rubber thing and we go around the corner. We go around the corner to the truck, where the truck is NASA, big NASA car truck, and I said "Don't drop me, push me. I don't care if you touch my butt or anything. Just push me up into [inaudible], please don't let me drop in this water!" That was so much water that I've ever seen in my lifetime. Now, we didn't have floods after that. We had a half-flood where we, I live in a townhouse section back that way. And we have had water.

We put our boots on and come outside and just congregate with everybody, you know, whatever, you know. People be coming through there on their little bicycles, you know, trying to [inaudible] through this water. When you look at people falling down in the water and everything else. So, so it's, it's been, and then one time I know I was trying to call because I had to get to work. I worked at the prison, ECI then, and I was a supervisor, and I don't know why I came back home that night, knowing that a storm was gonna come. But I'm thinking, I said, because I had left my vehicle up on where Food Lion's at, and I said, "Oh Lord, I got the good of work. They're gonna fire me, they gonna fire me, they ain't gonna believe that." They said, "Lieutenant Ward, you should have- you knew this was coming or whatever." Then I had to get in there to get the other officers their jobs and all that. And I- I got a plastic bag, put my uniform, clean underclothes and stuff in a bag, my shoes and all that, put a sweatshirt, sweats outfit on, and put my boots on. [Inaudible] from my house all the way down here and the floor was about right here to me. And I went to- I went to Food Lion, got my car, went to work, had to go in the bathroom, take [inaudible], and put my uniform on. So, but now people talk about water. My past is petrified of the water. They just tell you, I'm used to it. For 31 years, I am used to the water! I know when to leave now or to stay. But in lately, we haven't, you know, we have been able to stay because we outside congregate, you now, put our boots on and everything else, we out there talking, waiting for the water to, you know, to go down and all that. So it's, I, they talk about water here, this water been here, I've been 31 years and it was way before I was, and I came from Cambridge and the water was there too. Because back then in those days, I'm 70, back then was when I was growing up. High Street, we'd get flooded and the water would come in your house. You just push it out when the water come, you know, you just pushed it out. My mother go get another rug and put it down, you know, but now it's all of this health things, you know. Back then, I survived it, you know, I but now is all this mold and everything. We probably lived in mold and didn't even realize it. But now, because of smarter people and everything else, looking out for other people's health is much better. You know, we get more, we gotta get cut out. So.

**Butta:** Would you say that, like, your everyday type of flooding, do you think that it's gotten worse since you moved here, or do you just?

**Ward:** It's getting better, because- because I'd be a lot of time we couldn't come church because all of this be flooded but it's very, very seldom now that we- we still come to church when the town other places are flooded so it's to me it's getting better, but it is not resolved and what I don't know what it takes to resolve because they've been doing this study for the last 50 years and they haven't resolved it yet, is it? Is it the sea level too much for them? You know, it's going to, they- they might, the sea level might be a challenge for them here. And that's not the only place, you see what I'm saying?

**Butta:** And are you aware of any of the ways that it has improved the flooding, any- any like infrastructure that you're aware of that could have caused this improvement that- that you are talking about?

**Ward:** Well, I asked the city, how, you know, okay, we have less flooding now, you know, it's not like way up here, but it still comes like this, but it's not way up there. And they base, they have things, I forgot what she said is out there in the different parts of the town. And then they trying to keep that cleaned up and all that, you know, keep the drains and all of that cleaned up. So, I- in the last year, it's been good. This summer, we didn't have to walk in our boots and stand outside until last summer. So, it to me, we still have flooding, but it's not as great as it was, and we still can, it spent a couple times last year we couldn't come to church. But the majority of time, pastor called me up or I called him up. I said, "Is it flooded? Cause it's flooded over here on Coast Street." he said, "No, the church isn't," and we come on to church, you know, before we could not, we could not. Every time high tides come in or something or real rain real hard, we could not come in this- this- this whole area all the way down would be flooded. So it has changed. I don't know whether it's the environment. I- I don't have a answer to that, and I don't think anybody else really do. I think it just has to do with the sea level here, you know.

**Golladay:** So- so how has, like, flooding impacted your, like a, like your belongings, your house, if you had to make major repairs?

**Ward:** Nope, I haven't. We, we, when Sandy hit here, not my house, I never lost a car, because I know that if- if you say it's going to be flooding here, Vanessa's going to move her car to higher ground, simple as that, and I, you know, I got insurance and all that, but it's still, it's not worth it. It's just not worth going through the headache and agony and all of that. So.

**Butta:** So, you would just say that you move your car, and you mentioned that you have boots as well, that you have?

**Ward:** I have never lost any personal property. Some people, I can't say that for everybody, but Vanessa has, thank God, they turned the heat on in the other room. And the heat from there, because it's probably cold back here right now, that heat is coming in here. I know y'all hot, and I know I'm getting hot. But I felt that they turned it on from the other side of the room.

**Butta:** Do you see, have your neighbors at all made any changes to their homes or their properties?

**Ward:** Okay, my neighbor in back of me, she lifted her house up. She lifted her, and then I see now around town, I see a lot of people lifting their houses up.

**Butta:** And is your home lifted at all?

**Ward:** I'm up high. I live in a townhouse. I'm lifted up high.

**Golladay:** So, how has, like the local economy or industry changed over time since you've been here?

**Ward:** They steady closing. They can't keep anybody. Like when I came here, Carver Hall was here, they gone. It was more crab houses open, I only think it's a crab house open down here now. I really don't, I don't know how to pick crabs, I don't know. But I don't think there's a crab place here. On Main Street, right in back of us, there used to be a lot of little stories, Tyson, we used to go to Tyson, you know, early in the morning, get our, you know, food and stuff like that. All the buildings gone and everything else. There's no economic here. And then they tell me, Handy's got closed. That's another big business. You know, everything's, everything, it's nothing. If you want your kids to do something, you have to take them to out of town to do. There's no jobs here, unless you work for the school, or Rubberset, or these little restaurants. There's nothing else. Our McDonald's, our Food Lion, these are, you know, dollar stores, there are no jobs here. There's no factories here. There's no factory. Because Handy's great. Oh, you got a crab place. Then you're pulling people. But, you know, only so many, you know. But there's no economic start here for anybody because when my granddaughter graduated from high school and we had a party and we were doing a little toast and I told her "Don't look back, come visit. There's nothing here for you."

**Butta:** So that was some years ago.

**Ward:** Two years ago.

**Butta:** That was two years ago, okay.

**Ward:** Because this is her she's be a junior and I said my granddaughter she will be a junior in college.

**Butta:** So, you would say that it's changed since moving here?

**Ward:** Yes.

**Butta:** And do you have any ideas, the reasons behind it changing?

**Ward:** No. I don't know why the companies, you know, pulled out. I don't know why. I never really thought about why Carvel Hall, they employed a lot of people and they paid good money. I don't know why they, and then I don't know where, the crabs are, okay, I know for the crab business that the crabs are limited now in the Chesapeake Bay so that makes an impact on their business, but I honestly I don't think it's a crab packing crab house in Crisfield now. It could be, but I don't know of one.

**Butta:** So are there any ways that you think that the economy here could be helped?

**Ward:** You know, people hear a lot of stories about the war, about the flood and all that. You got in some tales Ocean City you go down there for [inaudible]. You swimming down there in the streets, so but they booming, you see they booming, but you have some- some people mentality that they don't want to change in this little town, and if they don't want it, if a certain group of people don't want it, it's not going to happen. You got to change, those people have to die off, you know what I mean? For the young people to come in and have a dream, to do something. But right now, they don't want anything to come. They block everything that wants to come to Crisfield.

**Butta:** So are there any current projects that you know about that are happening here that could help?

**Ward:** I know this city is, they- they got incentive grants and stuff to help businesses come, you know, on Main Street here. And it's a part of our, they, it's a contract with them if you put bring your vendors here and they would help you. And by the way, I'm on the board of the Crisfield Board of Zoning Appeals, too. I have wear a lot of hats. I am on the Crisfield Board Board of the Zoning Appeal. And- and then you have like, I'm a take an example of me being on their board. You have people that wants to do something, but then you got this group that don't even live by them, wants to come here, and- and- and. You see what I'm saying? Crazy.

[Interruption, side conversation begins, 00:25:17]

**Ward:** Yes, come on in! You see this, it's almost terrible in here. It's almost horrible in here. I've got too much what? Smells terrible in there. It says Snowy Pine, but I don't care. Oh, I think that's all we got. I'm going use it. Okay. Sorry- sorry to interrupt.

**Butta:** You're okay!

[Side conversation ends, 00:25:41]

**Golladay:** So you think there's like some like obstructionism like in the local- local people?

**Ward:** Local people, yes. And look, I did not vote for legalized marijuana. I did now vote for it. I hate that smell, but they were trying, a company was trying to get a- a- a factory, whatever it is, where the old Carvel Hall building is. It got big. But if somebody really wants to come in town, the city got to allow it because of the law. I don't want to see it, but I know what the law says. I'm with the law, you know. I did not vote for it. I hate the smell of it. Ooh! So, you know, that's what I'm saying. If someone come- come in, you know, they got to let these people in. Regardless whether we like I don't- I wouldn't- I don't want it, you know. I don't want it here, but if it comes, then I have no other choice to accept it, because it is the law. I won't be going there.

**Butta:** And speaking of like the city and the government, do you have any opinions on how the city, county, or the state has handled flooding issues here?



**Ward:** They get grants, they get grants, they get grants, they get grants, and it's all about research. When is the research is over? You see what I'm saying? When is you, you know, you how many- how many times did you have to research about a flood? The floodgates, if there's a problem with the floodgates, well, they- they- they had money, but our present president took it back from them. So the floodgates, the floodgate, they got to figure out how to renew- renew those floodgates all around town.

**Butta:** When did that happen? When did like the money for the tide gates get taken back?

**Ward:** Probably last week or something. Because at the same time, do you know where Hooper, have you heard of Hoopers Island and the causeway? Those people, the only way out of Hoopers Island is through that causeway and the federal government that took their money back. And the causeway needs to be repaired real bad for the other people on that island to come off of it to go to mainland. I guess save it, save it. I don't know.

**Butta:** If you know more information. Is that the FEMA grant? If you're aware of the?

**Ward:** It's not the FEMA because we, this- this church here in 2012, Sandy, we applied for the FEMA- FEMA grant and we- we, that's how we was able to rebuild our, do our, because everything, you know, outside was terrible. We got that. No, this is some kind of grant fee, right? I don't know exactly what- what it's called, but it's grant money that you, that you, you, know. You apply for money to help with that, you know, but I think, don't quote me really on there, but I think it's gone. Trump's taken everything.

**Golladay:** You, you mentioned that you got grant money at one point to like rebuild.

**Ward:** To repair our site to worry. Uh huh.

**Golladay:** How'd that, how'd that come around, how did that happen?

**Ward:** Okay. We were like. FEMA came down, and they gave us an estimate of how much damage we had done. We said, "Okay, we don't have money, the church don't, and we needed a place for worship." So me always surfing the internet, or you know, always surfing the internet, I seen that FEMA was at- at the hospital. And I- I went to the board, we have an administrative board, mixture of all chairs, all committee. And I went to the board and I said, "Can I go inquire about this and see about this?" And they gave me permission, so I went and I sat down with the people. They gave an application and everything else, and it was painful. It took a lot of time, effort to do it. The treasurer of the church at the time, her and I, we had to, we went to lawyer's office to get things running because some- some of our paperwork was not right, you know, and we had to get it in right, you know, right? We had go to the court house, the circuit court house way down in the dungeons for the old records because this church is 1878. We had to get incorporation, and those old people back then, they incorporated the church, but I had to get a

copy of it. And it was so much running around, oh, it was so much. But I never gave up. I never gave up. Pearl and I, you know, I would call her, let's go. You know, because I had nothing but time on my hand. And we went, we did everything, everything that was packed was this thick. Our forms that you had to fill out. And guess what? They gave us \$120,000. And look at us now, we good, we look good. We look good, because the steeple up there, it was, my God, that bale that's sitting out there, that was up there, and we scared that because of all that rain and what's called that rot and everything that we was done. And look at us now, so we pay, we pay, we pay a mortgage for it. It's like a mortgage. We pay every month. And we took it out for 25 years, and we pay every month, and plus, we have to pay for insurance because we have that mortgage. But we got it from FEMA.

**Butta:** In the event that you would have to receive or have to apply for another grant, do you think that the process would be kind of the same that you experience?

**Ward:** I hope not! From 2012 to 2025. I hope things are a little bit smoother. Yes, I think that was, I'm telling you, I got the copies right there. They just like that. That was a lot of paperwork. And it was I sat here and I burned a lot of nights sitting here doing that paperwork.

**Butta:** If you knew that, like going in, would that have dissuaded you at all?

**Ward:** No, because I wanted the church fixed and then, and then everywhere I went to- to the lawyers and everything. They didn't charge us nothing. That was the greatest thing. I said Pearl said unless you talk peace, you're a talker! We didn't have any money and they, you know, they did work for us, never charge us a dime. Don't know whether, you know, because it was a church or what, but I'm just going by my spirits with FEMA and all that.

**Butta:** So you mentioned the potential repair to the tide gates. Are there any other projects regarding to flooding that you know about that excite you or concern you?

**Ward:** It all has to deal with them floodgates. This is what I told them. Once they can figure out how to fix it, the flooding won't it's- it's the floodgates all around town, that's it.

**Butta:** So would you say they're not really working at their best right now?

**Ward:** [inaudible] I've been here 31 years, it's never worked. It's probably the worst. In my lifetime, I might not ever see I might not ever see dry land, that the town never floods in my lifetime. And this is an environment thing too. Climate.

[Phone call interrupts interview 00:34:23, interview resumes 00:34:36]

**Ward:** I should have some money for the church. That's why I said I gotta get that money. It's and plus climate. Climate is, I, you know, I hear our wonderful president talk about climate has nothing to do with the environment. It does.

**Butta:** So do you think that climate change is something in Crisfield, people in Crisfield talk about at all?

**Ward:** No. I don't hear it. Not in my- my group, okay? I don't hear, not in my group. [inaudible] But it has to have something to do with it. Look at, I look at other places. Look at the California wildfires. Tell me that's not doo-doo climate change is. Look at, you know, look at other things that have happened. That's how I look at it, you know, and people might look at in a different, I speak, I- I- I, uh-oh. Your opinion is just as good as mine's, you know, I value your opinion, but I need you to value mine's too. So I respect everybody's opinion, you know. That's how I am. I can sit there and listen to you, but when I get ready to talk and it's different from you, I, you know, just give me respect I gave you. And that's, and people don't do that anymore, I don't know. But they better get in line, climate change is here.

**Butta:** And do you have any reasons why you think that people are so apprehensive to talk about it here?

**Ward:** No. You can tell when the full moon coming. When the full moon coming, you can see the ditches full. You see what I'm saying? So I don't know. I- I don't know why people don't talk about it. They don't even want to talk about politics, okay? That's a dirty word.

**Golladay:** And like you, you mentioned your circle, is it a lot of, like, you know, older black ladies like yourself or?

**Ward:** I have a circle of a lot of people. My circle consists of non-educated, educated and, you know, religious, non-religious folks. That's my circle. I don't discriminate against anybody. [pauses]

**Golladay:** Are you- are you hopeful for the future of Crisfield, do you think?

**Ward:** Yes, I, yes, I am. I told you I'm a see that water slide! So, my- my grandchildren like water. I want to see that water slide for them and we don't have to go to Chincoteague or somewhere as you know. They are right here in home and it brings revenue to the city, but it seems like people don't want it grow. Take example for housing. You go to Princess Anne, you go to Salisbury, I come from Cambridge. They got all these new developments up. Where they at in Crisfield? None, none. I can't even think of one development that's started since I've been here, and I've been here thirty-one years. Isn't it weird? Not even a development, a housing development, not enough everywhere else. Even in Princess Anne, they boom it with new places, you know, business and all that. But, Pocomoke, new developments, here is not one. Yes, it is. I got back up. Let me back up, down by the water over here, that was built while since I've been here. And the high rise, the high rise has been built. But I'm talking about senior family housing and all of that.

[Ward's husband arrives, side conversation begins 00:38:57]

**Ward:** Here I am! I'm sorry, girl!

**Golladay:** No problem.

**Ward:** Can you go in my house after you? Hi. There you go. Hi.

**Ward:** What are you doing, babe?

**Butta:** Good. Just so you know, we're recording an interview right now, so your voice is going to be in there.

**Ward's husband:** I heard it.

**Butta:** Yeah. I don't know why we're whispering.

**Ward:** Go ahead.

[Side conversation ends, 00:40:40]

**Butta:** I guess we can talk about your grandkids. Do you see them?

**Ward:** Every day.

**Butta:** Do you want them to stay here though in the future?

**Ward:** No, as I told you, my granddaughter graduated from Crisfield two years ago, and this is she'd be going to third year in college. Told her to come visit, but don't- don't come back here because there's nothing, there's nothing here.

**Ward:** Do you see yourself staying here for the rest of your time?

**Ward:** Yup, I'm not, I'm, like I said, I'm 70. I'm not going anywhere.

**Ward:** And would you recommend Crisfield as a place to live?

**Ward:** Yeah, I like it. I like it. All right. [pauses]

**Butta:** I think we're at our last question. Do you have any other questions that you want to ask before?

**Golladay:** I've got, I've just got one, like so. So this is just going to be like, you know, preserved for like, you know, future generations, but is there anything about Crisfield that you really want people to like know about that we haven't talked about already?

**Ward:** It's a friendly town, we friendly folks, and it's and they do have a lot of things. Like I like the Crab Derby when it comes, if you haven't been Crab Derby. I like really since they moved the date J. Tawes crab that's- that's, you know, they're going to try. You know Labor Day weekend the town is- is booming, it's booming, and they should have something more like that or, you know, to, you know, so they can- it's a good town here, and it just need to bring more housing and more jobs and this would be a beautiful, beautiful town. A real beautiful town.

**Butta:** Okay, well I think that's all the questions that we have.

**Golladay:** Well, we just got like a... What, like, what wisdom would you share with future generations?

**Ward:** In Crisfield, all this growing up in Crisfield right now? Or anywhere?

**Golladay:** What, what, just- just in general.

**Ward:** They should get more involved in what- what that is around them, as far as being active for whatever your cause is, you know. Don't let nothing ever deter you from what you want to be, what you want do and how you want to do it, long as it's legal. And that always have a goal that you can measure. That it can be measured, you know, don't go for this a long time, I'm going, okay, Gail went to the- went to outer space, up and down right, it was up and down trip. If that's what you want to do, shoot for that, but don't say that you gotta go to planet Mars and we're not quite there yet, you see what I'm saying? Do you understand what I am saying? You have to, your goals have to be measured, that you can meet them goals and if you, if you, sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone in order to do that. Don't ever be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. Don't ever, and don't ever let anybody tell you that you could not do anything, because if you put your mind to it, you can do anything you want to do. You can be President of the United States. Look what we got now, so anybody can be president. So I just say achieve your goal, but always look at your surroundings around you. Always, you know, don't be a blind eye. Know what is going on around the world, and your environment, outside of your environment. Always be on the eyes on the back of your head and everything. Capture all the knowledge that you can. That's it.

**Butta:** Well, thank you.

**Golladay:** Yeah, thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us today.

[Transcript ends]